



Thomasina Cummings
DESIGNS
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IN A TWIST BAG



This pattern will enable you to produce a bag to suit any purpose. Size (height and width) are fully customisable. Use a sparkly silk yarn to make an evening bag in a handbag size or, maybe, a cotton linen mix yarn to make a handy bag for shopping.

Materials: Any type of yarn with appropriate sized hook. For reference, a handbag uses around 75g (225m) of DK (8-ply).

Optional: Button sized to fit through fastener (size varies with yarn)

Gauge: Dependent on yarn.

Special Stitches/Methods

Work in lower back loops only: Work stitch normally but insert the hook into the lower, back loop of the stitch not the top. The image shows the hook inserted ready to make a dc (US sc) - work is turned over to give a clearer view. The next lower, back loop is circled to show what the stitch looks like before work begins.

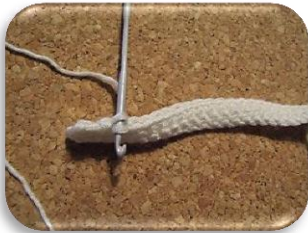
Hint: If you find the lower back loop particularly difficult to work into, switch to a smaller hook size but don't forget to switch back as soon as you start to work stitches normally!



UK fdc (US fsc)

1. Start with a slip knot, 2ch. 	2. Insert hook in 2nd ch from hook. 
3. yrh and draw up a loop. 	4. yrh and draw through one loop on hook (a chain made). 
5. yrh and draw through 2 loops on hook (1fdc made). 	6. Further stitches are worked under the vertical loop of the stem of the previous stitch (i.e. into the chain). 
7. *Insert hook into the vertical loop of the chain, yrh and draw up a loop. 	8. yrh and draw through one loop (a chain made). 
9. yrh and draw through 2 loops (1fdc made). 	10. Repeat from step 7 for the length of foundation. 

UK Reverse/Crab dc (US Reverse Crab sc) - worked left to right

1. Insert hook into stitch to be worked. In this case, we are working in every other stitch. 	 2. yrh and pull yarn through the stitch - but not through the original loop on the hook (2 loops on hook) - twisting direction of hook may make this step easier.	3. yrh and pull through both loops.  4. Repeat from step 1.
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Into the stem of the...

The stitch is worked normally but the hook is inserted into and through the stitch below (instead of into the top of the stitch) -

Note: you should count turning chains as stitches also.

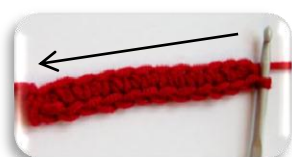
This pattern is written in UK terms. Below are the US equivalents where applicable.



UK abbreviation	UK term	US abbreviation	US term
ch	chain		
dc	double crochet	sc	single crochet
miss	miss	skip	skip
rep	repeat		
rnd	round		
sp(s)	space(s)		
ss	slip stitch	sl st	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)		
tr	treble	dc	double crochet
v-st	v stitch (1tr, ch1, 1tr) group	v-st	v-stitch (1dc, ch1, 1dc) group
fdc	foundation double crochet	fsc	foundation single crochet

Instructions

Commence with an even numbered fdc strip (see special stitches section). This will be the width of your bag. Rotate the strip and work 1dc into each st along the other side (i.e. along the top side of the fdc as shown in picture below), ss to join. The piece will fold up - continue working in rounds.



- Rnd 1: Working in lower back loops only, 1dc into each st around, ss to first dc to join.
- Rnd 2: 3ch, 1tr into same place, *miss next st, 2tr into next st, rep from *around, miss last st and ss to 3rd of 3ch to join.
- Rnd 3: 1dc **into the stem of the** st below (see special stitches section), 2ch, 1tr worked into the same place, *miss next st, 2tr into stem of next tr, rep from * around, miss last st and ss to 2nd of 2ch to join.

Repeat rnd 3 until bag is 1" shorter than desired finished length. Proceed to border (optional) or strap.

Border (optional)

- Rnd 1: 1ch, 1dc into each st around, ss to first dc to join.
- Rnd 2: as rnd 1
- Rnd 3: Loosely work a reverse crab stitch into every other st around (see special stitches section).

Proceed to strap.

Strap

Strap A: Locate the centre 2sts at the side of the bag. Join yarn into 1st of these 2sts.

- Row 1: 4ch, 1tr into next st (counts as 1v-st), turn.
- Row 2: 1dc into v-st, 3ch, 1tr into v-st, turn.

Repeat row 2 until strap is the desired length. Note how many v-sts for strap B – each v-st measures approximately 1cm. Fasten off leaving tail to attach to other side.

Strap B: Pulling strap A forward out of the way, re-join yarn between first two stitches of strap A.

Work as for strap A to the same length. Fasten off leaving tail to attach to other side.

Braiding:

Thread strap A through 1st v-stitch of strap B, thread strap B through 1st v-stitch of strap A.

Thread strap A through 2nd v-st of strap B, thread strap B through 2nd v-st of strap A.

Thread strap A through 3rd v-st of strap B, thread strap B through 3rd v-st of strap A.

Continue in the same manner until straps are fully braided. Neaten all ends (securely attaching the braided strap directly opposite first join).

Fastening (optional)

Locate the centre back stitch of the bag edging and re-join yarn, 10ch, ss to same place, 17dc into ch-10 loop.

Fasten off, and neaten ends (adding a few stitches to base of loop as necessary to ensure fastener is secure).

Securely attach an appropriately sized button to centre front, in line with the fastener.